AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for speech synthesis, said method implemented on the a handheld device and comprising:

   receiving a spoken utterance;

   extracting one or more prosodic parameters from the spoken utterance;

   performing speech recognition on the spoken utterance to generate a recognized word;

   from the recognized word that is generated from the speech recognition, synthesizing a nominal word; and

   generating a prosodic mimic word from the synthesized nominal word and the extracted one or more prosodic parameters, wherein generating the prosodic mimic also involves temporally aligning the synthesized nominal word with the spoken utterance.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more prosodic parameters include pitch.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more prosodic parameters include timing.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more prosodic parameters include energy.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising temporally aligning phones of the spoken utterance and phones of the nominal word.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the prosodic mimic word into a corresponding audio signal.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the spoken utterance is received by a telephone input device and the prosodic mimic word is provided to a telephone output device.

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9. (Previously Presented) A handheld system for speech synthesis, said system comprising:

an audio input device that receives a spoken utterance;

a signal processor that determines one or more prosodic parameters of the spoken utterance;

a speech recognizer that recognizes the spoken utterance and generates a corresponding recognized word;

a speech synthesizer that synthesizes a nominal word from the recognized word; and

a prosodic mimic generator that receives the synthesized nominal word and the one or more prosodic parameters and generates a prosodic mimic word therefrom, said prosodic mimic generator also temporally aligning the prosodic mimic word with the spoken utterance.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the decoder comprises a speech recognition engine.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the system is disposed on a mobile telephone device.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, further comprising a storage device including executable instructions for speech analysis and processing.

13. – 14. (Canceled)